MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 28, 1938.

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1938 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on July 28, 1938. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Borie,
Mr. Shepley,
Mr. Lamb,
H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held June 9, 1938, were approved.

2. ITALIAN WORLD WAR MEMORIAL: Under date of June 21, 1938, the following letter was received concerning the proposed gift from the Italian veterans of the World War residing in the United States:

June 21st, 1938.

Hon. Sir:

The Federation of the Italian War Veterans in United States wishes to offer to the memory of the Unknown Soldier a small bronze tablet to be deposited in the Arlington Memorial Hall as a token of highest gratitude and admiration.

The ceremony will take place in the most appropriate and dignified manner on February the 5th (Sunday).

You are respectfully requested to be so kind to grant your authorization to such a testimonial of comradeship among those who fought for the triumph of the same noble cause.

Expressing my appreciation for your prompt and favorable reply believe me,

Yours respectfully,
(Signed) Enrico Torino,
President of the Italian World
War Association--Post Washington, D. C.
2123--18th Street, N. W.

Mr. Frank Zucchet, sculptor, submitted a revised model in which he had embodied changes that had been suggested by the Commission of Fine Arts at the meeting on June 9. The Commission inspected the model and approved it. (Exhibit A)

3. VIRGINIA GREENSTONE SAMPLE: Mr. J. H. Doran, Manager of Sales of the Virginia Greenstone Company, Lynchburg, Virginia, submitted a sample of their stone. He made a short statement about it, as follows: My reason for bringing this up here is this--we have been talking for a long while about the Navy and Marine Memorial. There was a proposal before Congress to use granite for the memorial base. The granite is not green and is horribly expensive. I have proposed to do the job this way--split faced for the risers, sand rubbed on the steps and I think it will be more nearly the color of sea water. I have asked several people about the thing and one concern which is more or less active in the situation has said that it would prefer the polished or honed stone. I had the riser polished. The material cost for the granite on the last estimate was about $105,000 but we will produce this with the sand rubbed step and polished edge for about $40,000. I objected to the bill in Congress because it was proprietary and I asked Mr. Keller to amend the bill so that we could have a chance to compete on the job. I have no objection to their adding the architect's fees and the sculptor's because they ought to be paid.

Mr. Clarke asked what Mr. Corbett thinks of it, and Mr. Doran replied that Mr. Corbett is very favorable but that his partner is not. He did not talk with the sculptor. Mr. Clarke explained that the Commission had previously approved the memorial and would let that decision stand. Mr. Shepley asked if there were any large structures built in this stone, to which Mr. Doran replied

Mr. Frank Duoebet, sculptor, submitted a revised model in which he had embodied changes that had been suggested by the Commission of Fine Arts at the meeting on June 5. The Commission inspected the model and approved it. (Exhibit A)

5. VIRGINIA GRANANSTONE SAMPLE: Mr. J. B. Dorman, Manager of Sales of the Virginia Granastone Company, Lynchburg, Virginia, submitted a sample of their stone. He made a short statement about it, as follows: My reason for bringing this up here is this--we have been talking for a long while about the Navy and Marine Memorial. There was a proposal before Congress to use granite for the memorial base. The granite is not green and is horribly expensive. I have proposed to do the job this way--split faced for the risers, sand rubbed on the slope and I think it will be more nearly the color of sea water. I have asked several people about the thing and one concern which is more or less active in the situation has said that it would prefer the polished or honed stone. I had the risers polished. The material cost for the granite on the last estimate was about $105,000 but we will produce this with the sand rubbed slop and polished edge for about $4,000. I objected to the bill in Congress because it was proprietary and I asked Mr. Keller to amend the bill so that we could have a chance to compete on the job. I have no objection to their adding the sculptor's fees and the sculptor's because they ought to be paid.

Mr. Clarke asked what Mr. Corbett thinks of it, and Mr. Dorman replied that Mr. Corbett is very favorable but that his partner is not. He did not talk with the sculptor. Mr. Clarke explained that the Commission had previously approved the memorial and would let that decision stand. Mr. Shipley asked if there were any large structures built in this stone, to which Mr. Dorman replied

that there is only their own building in Lynchburg. The stone is very well thought of by the Procurement Division. It now contemplates the use of it in the polished surface for the Marine Hospital in Boston. He said it is found that while the stone does not retain all its lustre, it never changes color and carves easily. Mr. Lamb asked if it stands up in weather and was informed that it becomes a little darker. Mr. Shepley asked if Alberine stone is used as an alternate for greenstone. Mr. Doran said that it was not because it is not green; the alternates proposed for Virginia greenstone are three Massachusetts green granites.

Mr. Doran stated that he had proposed the Virginia greenstone to the W. P. A. and the P. W. A. for finishing of the memorial. If funds could be allowed for the purchase of material, the work could be done by the W. P. A. because stone men in Washington have been without work for a long time. Mr. Clarke said in conclusion that the Commission would not commit itself officially because it is not an official presentation. If the matter is brought up, then the Commission will know about the stone.

4. THOMPSON'S RESTAURANT: The John R. Thompson Restaurant Company, of Chicago, represented by W. H. Bloch, Superintendent, submitted a design for alteration of their restaurant building at 1345 E Street, N. W. (Exhibit B)

Mr. Bloch appeared before the Commission to explain the design. The Commission objected to the large sign proposed over the entrance. It was noted that the sign area covers 175 square feet and that the sign itself would occupy 97 square feet. Mr. Clarke explained that the Commission of Fine Arts have regulations limiting the area of signs in the Shipstead-Luce Act area to 25 square feet and that this sign would have to be changed to conform to the regulation. Mr. Bloch said he would make a re-study of the sign and see to it that it was reduced to 25 square feet.

The Commission then discussed the material for the exterior. Black enamel was not favored. The use of limestone was suggested but the point was raised that it would result in structural difficulties. The Commission recommended the use of deplated aluminum facing for the background of the sign. The letters of the sign will be of ivory porcelain enamel with green neon tubing. Polished aluminum will be used for the awning band and for the facia of the plate glass windows.

(A revised design embodying these changes, including the sign reduced to within 25 square feet, was submitted by Mr. Bloch and approved by Chairman Clarke on July 30.)

5. ALBERT GALLATIN STATUE: Mr. Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, in company with Mr. James E. Fraser, sculptor, submitted a design for the pedestal of the proposed Albert Gallatin Statue in the Treasury Department grounds. The sum of $10,000 for the pedestal was provided in the Second Deficiency Act (Public No. 723, page 44, approved June 25, 1938.) The authorization act reads as follows:

> Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That authority is hereby granted to any association organized within two years from date of the approval of this resolution for that purpose to erect a statue of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury from May 14, 1801, to February 9, 1814, opposite the west entrance of the Treasury Building in the city of Washington within the grounds occupied by such building, or at such other place within such grounds as may be designated by the Fine Arts Commission, subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library, the model of the statue so to be erected and the pedestal thereof to be first approved by the said Commission and by the Joint Committee on the Library, the same to be presented by such association to the people of the United States.
>
> SEC. 2. That for the preparation of the site and the erection of a pedestal upon which to place the said statue, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, the sum of $10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.
>
> Approved, June 15, 1937.

The design for the pedestal was made by Mr. Egerton Swartwout for a location heretofore suggested on the west steps of the Treasury Department Building. Mr. Fraser said he intends to use Rockport (Maine) gray-green granite, the same as that used for the pedestal of the Jeanne d'Arc in Meridian Hill Park. The Commission thought this good granite to use. Mr. Fraser said that in a preliminary sketch made some years ago he suggested a pedestal similar to that of the Alexander Hamilton on the south steps of the Treasury Department Building. Mr. Shepley said he did not think this type of pedestal suitable for a statue close to the old Robert Mills Treasury Building.

In considering the site, the Commission felt it an opportune time to go into the matter of a location on the north side of the Treasury Building where now are a sunken plaza and fountain. Mr. Simon said he had had the bill changed to make this change in site possible. The Commission asked through Mr. Simon that the Secretary of the Treasury allow the statue to be erected on the north side, at the same time removing the sunken plaza. (Exhibit C)

The Commission inspected a photograph of the enlarged model of the statue; a preliminary sketch was previously approved. Mr. Fraser showed the Commission a photograph of the portrait of Albert Gallatin painted by Gilbert Stuart, this portrait having been used as a basis for the model. The portrait is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

6. BULFINCH GATEHOUSES: Mr. Kirkpatrick of the National Park Service in company with Mr. Waterman of that office, pointed out the proposed location of the gateposts along Constitution Avenue. It was remarked that they were removed from the Capitol Grounds when they were extended to First Street, during the administration of President Grant.

The Commission felt that the gateposts should be brought into relationship with the gatehouses and if possible stretched along Constitution Avenue between 15th and 17th Streets. Mr. Kirkpatrick said it would be necessary to use all the gateposts available, even those at Fort Totten. Mr. Shepley said he would not care what condition they were in even if they were in ruins. It was stated that it may be possible to get eight out of nine. Mr. Clarke suggested buying Aquia Creek stone and building some but the fact was brought out that the Aquia quarries have long been closed. Mr. Clarke felt the heavy part of the composition, that is, the two gatehouses, ought to be in the center, namely, 16th Street and Constitution Avenue. The Commission concurred in this suggestion. Mr. Kirkpatrick will submit a new design showing the arrangement ofgatehouses and gateposts.

7. PLANTING FOR THE GREAT ENTRANCE TO ARLINGTON: Mr. Clarke called attention to a letter he had received from Mr. F. A. Delano, dated June 2[illegible], urging planting of vines at the Great Entrance with a view to having them grow over the base course and climb the vertical walls and also hang down over the top of the walls. With the letter Mr. Delano transmitted a memorandum from the Director of the National Park Service, as follows:

June 20, 1938.

Memorandum for Mr. Delano:

In reply to your memorandum of May 24, I have requested that the engineers of this Service make a study of the feasibility of planting ivy at the base of the granite walls at the Arlington Cemetery hemi-cycle. This Service has an item of $14,000 in the 1939 appropriation for cleaning, pointing, and water-proofing the walls of the hemi-cycle. In view of this contemplated work, I believe it would not be advantageous to plant the ivy at this particular time.

Personally, I concur in the suggestion contained in your letter of May 24 and in some of the suggestions contained in Major Gilmore Clarke's letter of February 17. I should like to point out, however, that the cutting of the pavement and other alterations will be necessary before the ivy can be planted. The present arrangement of hemi-cycle, which is not adapted to the planting of ivy, is in accordance with the action of the Fine Arts Commission taken several years ago.

I have instructed Superintendent Finman of National Capital Parks of this Service to arrange for the planting of ivy at a suitable time of the fall planting season.

I appreciate your calling this matter to my attention.

(Signed) Arno B. Cammerer,
Director.

Mr. Kirkpatrick submitted a planting plan for the Great Entrance. He said there are bad drainage conditions in back of the hemicycle. The waterproofing has failed and there is now a problem of periodical pointing up of the stone. It was noted that the vines would serve a good purpose in covering the stone if it is in a disintegrating condition. The Commission considered the planting plan presented as being particularly satisfactory. Certain suggestions were made as to the use of different kinds of vines. Mr. Shepley suggested ampelopsis with euonymus among it and then Virginia creeper to hang down from the top.

8. SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD AND RAILROAD RETIREMENT BUILDINGS: Mr. Charles Z. Klauder, Consulting Architect for the Procurement Division, submitted a preliminary sketch for the Social Security Board and Railroad Retirement Buildings, to be erected south of Independence Avenue at Third Street. Congress made provision for these buildings in the Second Deficiency Act (Public No. 723, page 44, approved June 25, 1938) as follows:

Social Security Board and Railroad Retirement Board Buildings: For the acquisition of the necessary land and the construction of buildings for the Social Security Board and the Railroad Retirement Board, under the provisions of the Public Buildings Act approved

May 26, 1933 (44 Stat. 630), as amended, including connecting tunnels, the extension of steam and water mains, removal or diversion of such sewers and utilities as may be necessary, and for administrative expenses in connection therewith, $3,000,000, within a total limit of cost of $16,250,000; and such sum of $3,000,000 is hereby made available from the appropriation of $965,000,000 in section 201 (a) of the Public Works Administration Appropriation Act of 1938 and is hereby transferred to the Procurement Division, Treasury Department, for the purposes of this paragraph: Provided, That such sum of $3,000,000 shall not be subject to any of the other provisions of such Act.

The design suggested a "fishbone" building, that is, a structure with a long central corridor and numerous projecting wings. Mr. Klauder said it is to be a building about 600 feet long without columns and in some respects will have the severity of an Egyptian facade. Special provision must be made for all kinds of tabulating machinery. The Commission did not favor having this type of building facing the Mall (it is proposed to erect it on Independence Avenue). Mr. Klauder said he never liked the outside appearance of a "fishbone" building and had been studying a way to improve the Mall facade. He presented a sketch suggesting covering the central projections by uniform architectural treatment and giving the projections the appearance of pylons by providing a low base. There would be windows at the ends of the projections, as much as 12 feet high and 16 feet wide, set at intervals, with recesses 1½ feet deep. The Commission felt that these changes decidedly improved the appearance of the building.

9. NAVAL HOSPITAL BUILDING: Under date of July 26, 1938, the following letter was received from Rear Admiral Percival S. Rossiter, Surgeon General, Marine Corps, Navy Department, with which he submitted a design for the new Naval Hospital, as follows:

July 26, 1938.

Dear Sir:

The Congress has authorized the construction of a Naval Medical Center "in the District of Columbia or in the immediate vicinity thereof", and has appropriated funds for the work. A site has been chosen on Rockville Road, Maryland, just north of Jones Bridge Road, and steps are being taken to acquire the property. The total cost of the land and the construction is authorized at $4,850,000.

Inasmuch as no site for the Center has been chosen until recently, the Bureau of Yards and Docks has not been in a position to prepare other than tentative sketches and drawings for the project. There are being presented to your Commission, for its information, the following drawings and data:

Perspective of elevation of main part of hospital and school.
Isometric of buildings showing facilities.
Tentative plot plan.
Photograph of Bureau of Yards and Docks perspective.
Folder of blueprints (17) showing facilities and activities for the various main hospital buildings.
Model (small scale) of proposed layout, but with tower of insufficient height.

The general type of structure, as indicated by the perspective, and the site for the Center, have been approved by the President.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) P. S. Rossiter,
Rear Admiral, MC., USN.,
The Surgeon General

The Commission inspected the design and also an isometric scheme showing the layout of the building. The secretary stated that the newspapers have reported that Paul Cret is the architect. Mr. Borie said that he was certain Dr. Cret has had very little, if anything, to do with the design.

Particular objection was made to a 230-foot central tower, designed in the block scheme with setbacks. The building will be located on a 214-acre tract a short distance north of Bethesda, Maryland, on the road to Rockville. It was pointed out that this is directly opposite the Public Health Service Cancer Research Institute Building, which is colonial in design.

The design was further considered by the Commission of Fine Arts during a joint meeting with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in the afternoon. Admiral Rossiter was present and explained that Dr. Trot is the consulting architect to the Bureau of Yards and Docks. The Admiral said it represents the results of study of a number of hospitals throughout the country.

Both Commissions disapproved the high tower proposed for the building and recommended a restudy of the design. The Commission decided to consider this matter further at the next meeting before communicating with Admiral Rossiter.

10. THOMAS JEFFERSON NICKEL: Mr. Clarke reported that under date of July 14, 1938, the Director of the Mint had submitted photographs of the revised model for the Thomas Jefferson Nickel, with letter as follows:

July 14, 1938.

Dear Sir:

I am submitting photographs of designs for the five-cent nickel piece. These designs have been executed by Mr. Felix Schlag. They are submitted for your consideration as to their artistic merits.

As considerable time has been consumed by the sculptor in executing his models it will be appreciated if you will assist us by expediting as much as possible the work of your Commission in passing upon these designs. The photographs are being sent with the hope that they may be transmitted to the Sculptor Member of your Commission as soon as possible.

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Nellie Tayloe Ross,
Director of the Mint.

The Treasury Department being anxious for a report as soon as possible, the photographs were submitted to Mr. Lawrie, who reported as follows:

The models are of good workmanship. I feel that the main lettering on the United States side should be as bold or bolder than the lettering on the Jefferson side; also, I feel that

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA should be at the top of the coin, thus reversing the positions of that and E PLURIBUS UNUM. In looking through a reducing glass at the photograph, which brings the image down to the size of a nickel, the letters FIVE CENTS seem to me too small.

Mr. Clarke said he thought Mr. Lawrie's criticism very good. It was noted that the sculptor had considerably improved his model of Monticello. The Commission concurred in this and in the report sent by Chairman Clarke to the Director of the Mint. (Exhibit D)

11. CAPRONI CASTS: Mr. Clarke reported that some months ago Representative Edith Nourse Rogers sent a letter requesting advice, together with prints of casts made by the Caproni firm in Boston, which is planning to go out of business and has suggested that the Government acquire some of the casts. Mr. Clarke said the matter was referred to Mr. Lawrie and Mr. Lawrie suggested that the Government acquire some of the casts. This report was embodied in a letter sent to Congressman Rogers. The Commission concurred in the report and expressed regret at the proposed disbanding of the Caproni Casts company. (Exhibit E)

12. REVOCATION OF THE BARNARD GIFT: Under date of July 14, 1938, the following letter was received from Mr. Richard Steel, Attorney, 61 Broadway, New York City, revoking the offer heretofore made by George Gray Barnard to the Government, of his rainbow arch and certain other property:

July 14th, 1938.

Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Hon. Charles Moore.

Re: Estate of George G. Barnard

Dear Sir:

On April 9th, 1937, in a letter addressed to you, Mr. George Grey Barnard tendered to the Government of the United States,

without consideration, certain real and personal property owned by him and located at the North East corner of 190th Street and Fort Washington Avenue, in the Borough of Manhattan, City of New York, under certain terms and conditions more particularly set forth in said offer.

Subsequently, two bills were presented to Congress, known as H. R. 7338 and S. 2446; which I understand were never acted upon.

As I am advised that the bills are to be reproposed to Congress in the next session, and, as Mr. Barnard died on April 24th, 1938, at the request of his family and the estate, which I represent, I am notifying you of a revocation of said offer and would appreciate you acknowledging receipt of this letter.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Richard Steel.

Mr. Clarke said that he had sent an official letter to Mr. Steel, stating that the Commission of Fine Arts had taken due notice of the revocation. The Commission endorsed the action of the Chairman. (Exhibit F)

13. EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM: Mr. Louis Simon brought to the attention of the Commission a proposed scheme to extend the National Museum building and called attention to a recommendation of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission that the wings should be 150 to 100 feet back from the sidewalk so as to be in line with the National Gallery. Mr. Doris said that the Commission had asked Mr. Wyeth for a set of the drawings he had previously made of this project and that a complete scheme should be presented before action is taken. The Commission concurred in this.

14. GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD STATUE: The secretary presented photographs of the General Artemas Ward Statue, in place, in the circle at Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, N. W. The Commission were pleased to hear that the statue has been erected.

A suggestion that the four lamp posts on the axial points of the circle be removed because they interfere with a proper view of the statue was approved (Exhibit G). (See also G-1)

With regard to landscape features, the Commission concurred in the recommendation of the Chairman that trees be planted around the periphery of the circle, leaving the question of walks in the circle to be determined some time later.

15. MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE UNDERPASS. Under date of July 7, 1938, a memorandum was received from Secretary McIntyre, stating that President Roosevelt has requested a joint report from the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia concerning the proposed Massachusetts Avenue underpass, as follows:

July 7, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS:

> The President has requested me to send you a copy of a letter which he has sent to Mrs. Frank B. Noyes in reference to the proposed underpass in the line of Massachusetts Avenue under Thomas Circle, and to ask if you will not be good enough to get in touch with Commissioner Hazen and the Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and let him have joint recommendation as to the merits of the plan proposed.
>
> (Signed) M. H. McIntyre,
> Secretary to the President.

The matter was considered at the joint meeting with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on the afternoon of July 22, at which two of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia (Mr. Hazen and Colonel Sultan) were present. Chairman Clarke pointed out that the Commission of Fine Arts is primarily concerned in the design of the underpass. This design has been made by a competent firm of architects and engineers and the Commission have approved it. At the joint meeting Captain Whitehurst, Director of Highways, was appointed to draft the report to be sent to the President. (Exhibit H) The Chairman sent a letter to Mr. M. H. McIntyre. (Exhibit H-1)

16. MUNICIPAL CENTER: The Commission of Fine Arts having protested against the erection of the administration building of the Municipal Center on John Marshall Place so as to obstruct the vista of the District Court House from Pennsylvania Avenue, the matter was considered at the joint meeting with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The architect members of the Commission, Mr. Borie, Mr. Shapley and Mr. Lenth and Chairman Clarke protested strongly against the scheme to place the building across John Marshall Place, forever cutting off a view of the old Court House, designed by George Hadfield, and one of the fine old buildings in the National Capital. It was also pointed out that the District Court House and Judiciary Square have a relationship with the central area of the National Capital, since Judiciary Square is the reservation which L'Enfant had in mind for the Judiciary Branch of the Government, that is, a Supreme Court Building, just as he had planned for the location of the Capitol and the White House. (Library of Congress Records) A report was received from Mr. Moore on the subject. (Exhibit I)

Chairman Clarke sent a telegram to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission urging that John Marshall Place be kept unobstructed by the Municipal Center Building, as follows:

July 29, 1938.

Hon. Frederick A. Delano,
National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
South Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

Sincerely trust your Commission will rescind action regarding Municipal Center Building. Regret fact Municipal Architect failed to advise you of Fine Arts Commission's disapproval over one year ago. In unanimous opinion Fine Arts Commission this problem too important to compromise in spite of delay and expense involved.

G. D. Clarke

Mr. Delano sent the following reply:

Telegram received. We have been studying the matter (Municipal Center) all day and while our commission is not willing to withdraw its previous recommendation Col. Sullam has agreed to ask Mr. Wyeth to restudy the project along the lines suggested by William Delano in the hope of having this restudy in shape to exhibit to you when you are down here as I understand you will be on August 11th.

In accordance therewith it was agreed that Mr. Wyeth would submit revised studies, having in view the plan to keep John Marshall Place open. These designs will be submitted at the next meeting in New York on August 16.

The Commission adjourned at 7:00 p. m.

C O P Y

July 28, 1938.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 28, 1938, considered the revised design submitted by Frank Zucchet, sculptor, 1134 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W., for a plaque which your organization proposes to give as a memorial to the Unknown Soldier of the World War at the Arlington Memorial Amphitheatre.

The Commission of Fine Arts approve the model.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Enrico Torino,
President of the Italian
World War Association,
2123--18th Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

THOMPSON'S RESTAURANT
350 No. Clark St.
Chicago

July 13th, 1938.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I have received your letter of July 11th, 1938, in reference to the proposed front for our restaurant located at 1345 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., and note what you have to say regarding the large advertising sign on the building. Upon checking with the artist who drew this perspective, we find that he has drawn the sign out of proportion.

In accordance with your suggestions, we are sending our drawings and formal application for the alteration of the building to the Building Inspectors Office. These drawings will be mailed tomorrow and should be in the Building Inspectors hands not later than Monday, July 18th. The elevation of the front which is part of these drawings show the sign in its true size as we propose to have same built. The actual sign itself, consisting of the words, "Thompson's Restaurant", you will note is designed so the word "Thompson's" is 11'-10" long with the small letters 1'-0" high, and that the word "Restaurant" is 8'-0" long and 9" high, and we believe that the total square footage of this sign will come within your requirements. These letters will be cut out and applied to the face of the building construction, which we propose to make black porcelain enameled steel sheets.

The writer at the present time does not believe he will be able to be in Washington on July 28th, 1938, however, a representative of our general contractor will be there on that day or a day or two later and will contact you. In the meantime we await with interest the decision of the Commission regarding our store front design, as we believe it will be most attractive and be an asset to Pennsylvania Avenue.

We again thank you for your courtesies.

Very truly yours,
JOHN R. THOMPSON CO.
By W. H. Bloch
Sup't of Maintenance.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Washington

August 5, 1938.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At their meeting on July 28, 1938, the Commission of Fine Arts reconsidered the location for the proposed statue of Albert Gallatin by James E. Fraser, sculptor, to be placed on the grounds of the Treasury Department Building. This was done at the suggestion of Mr. Louis Simon, Supervising Architect.

The Commission took up the question of location with both Mr. Fraser and Mr. Simon. While the location on the west steps of the building, approved by this Commission, is reasonably satisfactory, the Commission strongly recommend that the statue be placed on the north side of the Treasury Department Building facing Pennsylvania Avenue. This will necessitate the removal of the existing fountain and filling in the sunken plaza created by the regrading of Pennsylvania Avenue years ago.

This location would provide an outstanding and eminently appropriate setting for the statue. Should this suggestion meet with your approval, a design could be made to show the statue in relation to the north side of the Treasury Department Building, together with plans for raising the terrace to a level of approximately one foot six inches below the sidewalk on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Messrs. Fraser and Simon concur heartily in these suggestions.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

July 18, 1938.

Dear Mrs. Ross:

The photographs of the models by Felix Schlag for the Thomas Jefferson five-cent piece which you submitted with your letter of July 14, have been brought to the attention of Mr. Lee Lawrie, the acting sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts. Mr. Lawrie reports as follows:

> The models are of good workmanship. I feel that the main lettering on the United States side should be as bold or bolder than the lettering on the Jefferson side; also, I feel that UNITED STATES OF AMERICA should be at the top of the coin, thus reversing the positions of that and E PLURIBUS UNUM. In looking through a reducing glass at the photograph, which brings the image down to the size of a nickel, the letters FIVE CENTS seem to me too small.

Subject to these criticisms the Commission of Fine Arts approve the models.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Nellie Tayloe Ross,
Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington, D.C.

July 5, 1938.

My dear Mrs. Rogers:

Your letter of June 8, inclosing correspondence from Mr. Paul L. Crabtree of the Caproni Galleries, Inc., concerning the Caproni Casts, was brought to the attention of Mr. Lee Lawrie, a former sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts and the acting sculptor member in the absence of Mr. Paul Manship in Europe. Mr. Lawrie reports as follows:

"Back in the Nineties when I was a studio boy for sculptors in Boston, I went to the Caproni Galleries perhaps oftener than to the Boston Museum. Their collection of casts of the ancient Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Renaissance was then more complete than the collections of any of the museums in the larger cities.

"Peter Paul Caproni and Brother often went to Europe in those days and brought back moulds of the antique sculpture from which they made casts to sell to the museums, schools, and sculptors. Today, of course, the museums, of New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia, and the other large cities all have collections of casts that are more or less complete, and it is not difficult for the student to see the casts from the Antique.

"Nevertheless, the Capronis have done a great service, and if their collection of moulds and casts is as complete as it was when I last saw it, in 1908, it is well worth preserving, or at least the rarest pieces from it should be kept. The Caproni firm also had many casts and moulds for commercial purposes that have no aesthetic value. It is only the master moulds and casts of the Antique that should be considered for preservation."

The Commission of Fine Arts heartily concur in this report by Mr. Lawrie.

The correspondence from Mr. Crabtree is herewith returned.

Hon. Edith Nourse Rogers,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Very respectfully yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

C O P Y

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

July 16, 1938.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of July 14, has been received.

I take due notice of the fact that in view of Mr. Barnard's death on April 24, 1938, his family and the estate have revoked their offer concerning certain land and personal property owned by him and located at 190th Street and Fort Washington Avenue, New York City.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Richard Steel,
61 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT F

C O P Y

July 30, 1938.

My dear Mr. Hazen:

The statue to General Artemas Ward, which is being given to the National Capital by Harvard University, has been erected at the intersection of Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues. Inclosed is a photograph of the statue, showing that there is a lamp post at each of the four axial points of the circle, which interfere with a proper view of the statue.

The Commission respectfully ask that these four lamp posts be removed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Melvin C. Hazen,
President,
Board of Commissioners of
the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

C O P Y

August 10, 1938.

Dear Mr. Crunelle:

The Commission of Fine Arts has not had an opportunity to see the General Artemas Ward monument in place, but we have seen a photograph of it and are pleased with it. You are to be congratulated. The monument is a real contribution to the art of the National Capital.

The question of landscape plan was considered at a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on July 28th. It was decided that simply a row of trees around the perimeter of the circle would be sufficient for the present. They can be planted after the dedication, which, we understand, will take place some time this fall.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Leonard Crunelle, Sculptor,
6016 Ingleside Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

EXHIBIT G-1

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington, D.C.

August 10, 1938.

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

The Commission of Fine Arts met jointly with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia on July 28, 1938, to give further consideration to the problem concerning the proposed underpass at Thomas Circle, in accordance with your request, and respectfully report as follows:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on June 9, 1938, carefully considered a design for an underpass on Massachusetts Avenue at Thomas Circle, submitted by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. The plans for the structure, designed by McKim, Mead and White, architects, in collaboration with Parsons, Klapp, Brinckerhoff, and Douglas, engineers, were approved. A few suggestions were made by the Commission of Fine Arts covering matters of architectural detail. The equestrian statue of General Thomas in the center of the circle will be retained about as it is at present. While it becomes necessary to remove some of the trees, the Commission have been assured that these will be replaced by other trees as large as it is practicable to move when the underpass is completed.

The Commission of Fine Arts have been advised that the District Commissioners and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission have gone carefully into the problem concerning the requirements for traffic and understand that as a result this grade elimination is necessary for the convenience and safety of the public and further that it is the only practicable solution under the circumstances. In view of these statements the Commission of Fine Arts have approved the architectural designs for the bridge structure and the studies for the rehabilitation of the Circle and its environs.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Marvin H. McIntyre,
Secretary to the President,
The White House.

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

August 1930.

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia met in joint session on Thursday, July 28th, pursuant to your request of July 7th, to consider the merit of the plans proposed for the construction of a grade separation at Thomas Circle.

At this joint meeting the three bodies considered the whole problem presented at Thomas Circle and reviewed their previous actions on the matter. After careful consideration they reaffirmed their previous decisions and passed the following motion:

> "MOTION unanimously carried that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts and the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, in joint meeting assembled, endorses the project for the grade separation structure at Thomas Circle, approves the general plans, and authorizes the Chairman of the three commissions to convey to the President their action and the reasons therefor."

We are cognizant of the fact that it will be necessary to remove the existing trees on Massachusetts Avenue in the vicinity of the underpass, however, their replacement will be undertaken with trees of as large a size as practical upon the completion of the project. The surface rearrangement of roadways in the vicinity of the circle proper will not in our judgment mar the beauty of this feature of the present layout. We are further of the opinion that upon completion of the structure the beauty of this area can be properly restored and that the changes will be of a material aid in relieving traffic congestion and promoting safety.

There is enclosed a statement briefly outlining the history and study of the Thomas Circle project, together with pertinent facts in regard to traffic, that governed the conclusions reached.

In accordance with the action of the three bodies expressed in the Motion above quoted, we are of the opinion that the project

should proceed pursuant to the Act of Congress authorizing the construction.

Faithfully yours,

Frederic A. Delano,
Chairman, National Capital Park
and Planning Commission.

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts.

Melvin C. Hazen,
President, Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia.

Enclosure.

C O P Y

Gig Harbor, July 23, 1938.

Dear Major Clarke:

The threat to place the administration building for the District of Columbia athwart John Marshall Place emphasized anew the serious menace to the orderly development of Washington by the haphazard location of new public buildings called for by the diversification of Government activities as well as by the growth of existing functions.

The Plan of 1901 has been outgrown, as Burnham anticipated it would be when he prophesied that our descendants would do things that would astonish us. The trouble is that needs have outstripped the capacity of planners; and pressing necessities have prevented a broad comprehensive, logical plan for the future.

When the District was permitted to occupy Judiciary Square with court buildings it was anticipated that John Marshall Place would be developed as a fine, broad link between the Mall and the District group focusing on the Old Court building. To block this connection would be to substitute one big unit for two small ones.

The District now needs open spaces connected with large scale plaza-thoroughfares. I think the District Building should come to Pennsylvania Avenue as the Departmental buildings do. Some day before very long the District will be managed as a function of the general Government. It has long outgrown the District Commissioners. There's not a man in the District eligible for a Commissioner, whose mind is big enough for the job. It was bad in my day. It is worse now--much worse.

When Secretary Hoover insisted on his three-times--too-large Commerce Building the Commission thought to mitigate blocking traffic by carrying two

EXHIBIT I

streets through the building, as in the Louvre. The passages are there--blocked with parked autos.

The Park and Planning people never should have located the War and Navy buildings where they would be approached on two sides through rows of semi-public buildings, on the north by a degenerating Pennsylvania Avenue and on the fourth side butting against a hill. Mr. Ickes added to the confusion with the building in which you are being air-cooled today. So long as there is no logical plan the individual official will prevent orderly development.

The location of the Naval Hospital out in Bethesda is a bit of humor. How will sick Congressman get away out there? President Roosevelt thought the Hill Billies wouldn't let him move the hospital from the present site! Nothing but service pride keeps two hospitals where but one should be.

This is a fulmination (with long thought behind it) written to reiterate the conviction that the time has come for as comprehensive a plan as was made in 1901, for the development of the District in the light of Government needs present and future; always with due attention to maintaining against the pressure of the day that spaciousness and integration and logic that were shown by L'Enfant and Washington in the beginning and that were continued by the Park and Planning Commission, building on secure foundations.

Greetings of the most cordial kind to the members of the Commission.

Charles Moore.